

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus to enable automatic release of a railway vehicle hand brake system from either side of such vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a source of fluid pressure engageable with such vehicle;

(b) a release cylinder operable by fluid pressure connected to a hand brake mechanism, such hand brake mechanism engageable with a brake system disposed on such vehicle;

(c) a two-position, three-way valve ~~means~~ connected intermediate said source of fluid pressure and said release cylinder for causing said release cylinder to release such hand brake system;

(d) a first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator disposed on a first side of such vehicle and connected intermediate said valve ~~means~~ and said source of fluid pressure for causing said valve ~~means~~ to initiate communication of fluid pressure from said source of fluid pressure to said release cylinder; and

(e) a second valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator disposed on an opposed second side of such vehicle and connected intermediate said valve ~~means~~ and said source of fluid pressure for causing said valve ~~means~~ to initiate communication of fluid pressure from said source of fluid pressure to said release cylinder.

2. (Currently amended) An apparatus, according to claim 1, wherein said first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator and said second valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator are pneumatic actuators.

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus, according to claim 2, wherein said apparatus further includes a relatively small reservoir connected intermediate said source of fluid pressure and both said first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator and said second valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator.

4. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 3, wherein said apparatus further includes a check valve connected intermediate said source of fluid pressure and said relatively small reservoir.

5. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 4, wherein said apparatus further includes a choke connected intermediate said source of fluid pressure and said check valve.

6. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 4, wherein said relatively small reservoir has a capacity of about 80 cubic inches.

7. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 5, wherein said choke has a diameter of about .006 inch.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus, according to claim 2, wherein said apparatus further includes a choke connected intermediate said valve ~~means~~ and both said first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator and said second valve actuation means.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus, according to claim 1, wherein said valve means and said first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator and said second valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator are electrically operated and said apparatus further includes a power source.

10. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 9, wherein said power source is a battery.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus, according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus further includes a relatively small reservoir connected intermediate said valve ~~means~~ and said source of fluid pressure.

12. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 11, wherein said apparatus further includes a check valve connected

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intermediate said source of fluid pressure and said relatively small reservoir.

13. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 12, wherein said apparatus further includes a choke connected intermediate said source of fluid pressure and said check valve.

14. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 13, wherein said relatively small reservoir has a capacity of about 80 cubic inches.

15. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 13, wherein said choke has a diameter of about .006 inch.

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus, according to claim 9, wherein both said first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator and said second valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator are electrical switches.

17. (Original) An apparatus, according to claim 1, wherein said source of fluid pressure has a capacity of about 3,500 cubic inches.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus to enable automatic release of a railway vehicle hand brake system from either side of such vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a source of fluid pressure engageable with such vehicle;

(b) a release cylinder operable by fluid pressure connected to a hand brake mechanism, such hand brake mechanism engageable with a brake system disposed on such vehicle;

(c) a valve ~~means~~ connected intermediate said source of fluid pressure and said release cylinder for causing said release cylinder to release such hand brake system;

(d) a first pneumatic actuator disposed on a first side of such vehicle and connected intermediate said valve ~~means~~ and said source of fluid pressure for causing said valve ~~means~~ to initiate communication of fluid pressure from said source of fluid pressure to said release cylinder; and

(e) a second pneumatic actuator disposed on an opposed second side of such vehicle and connected intermediate said valve ~~means~~ and said source of fluid pressure for causing said valve ~~means~~ to initiate communication of fluid pressure from said source of fluid pressure to said release cylinder.

19 (Currently amended) An apparatus to enable automatic release of a railway vehicle hand brake system from either side of such vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a source of fluid pressure engageable with such vehicle;

(b) a release cylinder operable by fluid pressure connected to a hand brake mechanism, such hand brake mechanism engageable with a brake system disposed on such vehicle;

(c) an electrically operable valve ~~means~~ connected intermediate said source of fluid pressure and said release cylinder for causing said release cylinder to release such hand brake system;

(d) an electrically operable first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator disposed on a first side of such vehicle and connected intermediate said valve ~~means~~ and said source of fluid pressure for causing said valve ~~means~~ to initiate communication of fluid pressure from said source of fluid pressure to said release cylinder;

(e) an electrically operable second valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator disposed on an opposed second side of such vehicle and connected intermediate said valve ~~means~~ and said source of fluid pressure for causing said valve ~~means~~ to initiate communication of fluid pressure from said source of fluid pressure to said release cylinder; and

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(f) a power source coupled to each of said valve means,
first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator and second valve ~~actuation~~
~~means~~ actuator.